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REMARKS

The Office Action of November 26, 2010 finally rejecting the claims in this case is noted. Specifically the Examiner raises a 35 USC 112 first paragraph rejection, and while Applicants do not agree with the Examiner, the supposedly unsupported language has been struck from the claims. Rather, Applicant has used the phrase "non-specialized" to reference the standard handheld transceiver claimed. By definition, "standard" means "non-specialized".

As to the 35 USC 103 rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to recite the fact each of the standard non-specialized transceivers have been provided with a mini add-on module. Thus, in the ad-hoc network there are a number of standard transceivers and an equal number of associated add-on modules.

It is the purpose of the mini add-on modules to convert the format used by the "standard" transceiver to a common frequency and a common format.

Nowhere is this shown in the references cited. Mason et al. are simply doing it a different way.

Taking a look again at Mason et al., Mason uses specialized radios. Mason says:

"but in contrast to the typical radios currently in use, the first responder radios 21000 provided herein enable the responders to communicate across different function units (i.e., fire to police, police to EMS, etc.) via common channels and frequencies" (emphasis supplied)

Here, all of the responders are given identical specialized radios which is never practical for an ad-hoc incident network.

Rather, as spelled out in prior Amendments, many of the responders come with different equipment which cannot intercommunicate. Applicants do not say "throw out

all of your standard equipment.” Rather, Applicants say take each of your standard radios and provide each with a mini module that converts whatever standard frequency and format the standard radio is using to a single common format and frequency.

Applicants have solved the problem of not having to provide special radios to all of the first responders, which is an extremely expensive proposition. Moreover, first responders do not want to give up their trusty old equipment.

Thus, it is eminently clear Mason et al. fail to teach a “standard” radio coupled to a “mini module”, much less a mini module that converts disparate frequencies and disparate formats to a single format and single frequency. Mason et al. figured it out in a different way. They simply provide specialized radios to all first responders and provide them with a common frequency and format.

Applicants reject this approach and for good reason...it is impractical.

The Examiner seeks to add Zuckerman et al. to the teachings of Mason et al. It is very clear from Figure 1 of Zuckerman et al. that each of the transceivers 22 do not have an associated add-on mini module that converts all transmissions to a common frequency and format. Rather, what Zuckerman et al. do is provide a group leader (group leader 14) with the ability to switch to a first to frequency and format and then to another frequency and format. Moreover, this switch is only at the group leader’s location, not at each radio.

Moreover, the switch has nothing to do with converting disparate frequency and formats into a single frequency and format.

For these reasons, neither of these references teach a number of the transceivers with a like number of mini add-on modules, in which the modules themselves do the converting. Nor is the function of providing a "standard" transceiver with an ability to convert itself to transmit on a single frequency and format shown or taught anywhere. Mason et al's responder radios 21000 simply do not operate this way. They have to be set up ahead of time.

Note, Mason et al. distinguishes his specialized radios from standard radios.

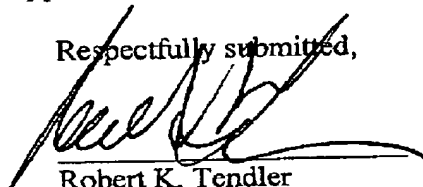
In short, none of the references show the claimed function. Since they don't teach the claimed function they are simply incapable of anticipating the claimed subject matter.

It is therefore Applicants' firm contention that the claims are free of the art cited and are in condition for allowance.

Allowance of the claims and issuance of the case are therefore earnestly solicited.

Alternatively, entry of this Amendment for Purposes of Appeal is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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